

**CLARK COUNTY
CLEAN WATER COMMISSION
Meeting Notes**

Wednesday, April 3, 2002
6:00 – 9:00 PM
Clark County Public Works Department
Conference Room
4700 NE 78th Street
Vancouver, Washington

Call to Order

Roll Call:

Clark County Clean Water Commission Members Present

Robbie Agard, Willie Bourlet, Cal Ek, Mary Martin, Susan Rasmussen, Judy Schramm, Don Steinke, and Art Stubbs

Clark County Clean Water Commission Members Absent

Dana Kemper

Clark County Public Works Staff

Kelli Frost, Earl Rowell, Jeff Schnabel, and Rod Swanson

Clark County Treasurer's Office Staff

John Payne

Washington State Cooperative Extension Staff

Gary Bock

Audience

Virginia VanBreeman

Introduction

The members of the Clark County Clean Water Commission, Clark County staff, and guests were introduced. Mr. Agard, then called the meeting to order.

Agenda and material review

The material for tonight's meeting include:

1. 4/3/02 Clark County Clean Water Commission meeting Agenda;
2. 3/6/02 Clark County Clean Water Commission meeting notes;
3. Editorial from the Battle Ground Reflector, dated March 2002;
4. Long-term Index Site Monitoring, 2001 Summary Packet;

3/6/02 notes

The notes from the 3/6/02 Clark County Clean Water Commission meeting were approved as written.

BOCC/CWC work session in May

Mr. Rowell: The Clean Water Commission is scheduled to meet with BOCC for a quarterly work session in May. However, this Commission may want to consider holding an informal luncheon with the BOCC.

The Clean Water Commissioners felt that meeting with the BOCC at an informal luncheon may provide a better opportunity to express concerns that they would not be able to address during a formal work session.

Mr. Bourlet proposed Motion 2002-0403-03: For the Clean Water Commission to invite the BOCC to an informal luncheon in May.

Motion passed by all present Clark County Clean Water Commission members.

Mr. Bourlet: Where would the luncheon be held?

Mr. Rowell: In the past we have held similar luncheons in the Department of Community Development conference room.

Updates/Communications from the public/media/agencies

Mr. Rowell: Water Resources staff had the opportunity to meet with various news personnel who were conducting seminars on presenting news stories to public and the press.

Mr. Rowell: We back filled the engineering technician and water resources scientist positions. Ron Wierenga has been hired as the water resources scientist and will be working on the two grants programs. Ken Lader has been hired as the engineering technician.

Mr. Agard: What is the cost of these two positions?

Mr. Rowell: The cost is approximately \$40,000 per year for each position. The positions have been the budget since 2000.

Mrs. Rasmussen spoke to the Commission about a community outreach project she participated in with the LaCenter garden club. She handed out the Natural Yard and Garden booklets and asked for comments regarding the booklet. The public would like to see more formulas and recipes that they can make and use in their homes and gardens.

Public Input

Ms. VanBreeman described to the Commissioners a field trip that she participated in with the Capital Improvements Subcommittee.

Clark County Treasurer's Office

Mr. Payne from the Treasurer's Office was introduced and he proceeded to explain to the Clark County Clean Water Commissioners how the clean water fee billing process is handled in the Treasurer's office.

Mr. Agard: What is the percentage of those customers that didn't pay their fee?

Mr. Payne: Over 4000 people haven't paid their bill in 2001.

Mr. Payne: We contract with a national postal clearinghouse to help correct incorrect addresses.

Mrs. Martin: Isn't it the responsibility of homeowner to contact Treasurer's office when they move?

Mr. Payne: That is correct.

Mrs. Martin: Is sending accounts to collections cost effective?

Mr. Payne: You will typically receive a 33 percent return once it is sent to a collection agency. Some people will not pay the bill purely out of principle.

Mr. Bourlet: How is the Clean Water Audit going?

Mr. Payne: I heard that they were in the process of wrapping up the audit.

Capital Improvements Subcommittee Update

Mr. Rowell provided a brief update on the capital improvement subcommittee.

There are three projects that Public Works will possibly be working on.

1. Curtain creek/Brentwood Neighborhood retrofit.
2. Hwy 99 Bridge/Salmon Creek which will take runoff from the road and deposit into canisters which will act as filter before being discharged into Salmon creek.
3. Thomas Lake in the Burnt Bridge Creek area, which will slow down water to provide more treatment.

Mr. Giese is also looking to expand beyond these projects. If this Commission knows of any projects bring them to the next meeting.

Mr. Bourlet: Mrs. Rasmussen brought up several good ideas but they cannot be implemented because you would need permits. It seems that you cannot make anything better because they have your hands tied.

Mr. Bourlet: The BOCC needs to look at the current codes and to change their thinking towards clean water. They are stopping people from doing things to improve the water because of all the codes and restrictions.

Mr. Bourlet: It is my opinion that the BOCC is not serious about landowners and clean water.

Mr. Agard asked Water Resources staff to think of ways that the county could work with rural landowners to make it easier to enhance their wet lands.

Monitoring Update

Mr. Schnabel talked about the long-term index site project and where they are located.

The purpose of this project is to provide an ongoing report card of general stream conditions in Clark County by tracking long-term trends in several stream health indicators.

Mrs. Rasmussen: When were these tests first started?

Mr. Schnabel: We started this program last September, the monthly grab samples began in October.

Mrs. Schramm: How do you consistently monitor streams?

Mr. Schnabel: To make it fair we take random samples.

Watershed Stewards Quarterly Report

Mr. Bock provided the Commissioners with an update on the Watershed Stewards Program. The Watershed Stewards are very active and participating in a variety of public events including preparing for the Home and Garden Fair.

Mr. Steinke offers his support for Mr. Bock to pay for an ad in the Columbian in order to draw attention to the Watershed Stewards program.

Mr. Bock informed the Commission that eighteen people graduated from the Spring Watershed Stewards Program. All the students who signed up for the program graduated.

Mr. Agard: How many students would be an ideal group.

Mr. Bock: No more than 25 would be ideal.

Budget 2003 - 2004

Mr. Rowell: Mr. McCauley the Public Works Finance Director is interested in knowing if this Commission would like to pay back the loan to the road fund. Currently there is 2.4 million dollars in reserve that can be used to pay back the loan.

The Clark County Clean Water Commissioners are not interested, at this time, in taking money out of the reserve fund to pay back the loan.

Adjourn

Mr. Agard adjourned the Clark County Clean Water Commission meeting at 9:00 p.m.

The next Clark County Clean Water Commission meeting will be held Wednesday, June 5, 2002.

Respectfully submitted by Kelli Frost

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